



Dear Charter Leader,

In May 2010, the **Tennessee Achievement School District (ASD)**, **New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO)**, and the **Recovery School District of Louisiana (RSD)**, prepared a successful application to the United States Department of Education “*Investing in Innovation*” (i3) program and is pleased to announce \$6.8 million available in funding to be awarded to charter operators toward the turnaround of an existing, academically unacceptable public school in Memphis or Nashville.

The goal of the grant is to build the permanent infrastructure and capacity to replace persistently low-performing schools with charter restarts executed by high-performing charter organizations. The ultimate goal is to eliminate academically unacceptable schools in the Memphis and Nashville by providing greater educational choice for ALL students, parents and communities. Award amounts range from \$338,000 to \$1 million.

Operators applying for i3 funding must prepare to open their school beginning the 2012-13 school year and must either possess or be in the process of obtaining a charter to open a charter school in Memphis or Nashville for the 2012-13 school year. In addition, existing operators and networks must meet the minimum academic requirement (i3 Effect Size) to be eligible to submit an application for an i3 award. (*See Section 4*).

While the effect size data will not be released until September 20, 2011, we are including it as an appendix because we want potential applicants who are opening their first campus in Tennessee to be able to work on the i3 application in conjunction with charter application. For existing operators, we believe that concurrently releasing both applications will provide a “head start” prior to the release of the effect size data.

The application contains thorough information on timelines, eligibility, and evaluation. Our goal in the ASD is to ensure the i3 grant process is open and transparent. To that end, we have scheduled information sessions about completing the application along with conference calls to answer questions after the effect size data is released. Details about both the meetings and conference calls are included in the application (*See Section 5*).

We look forward to continuing to work through this first round of i3 selection with you. If you have any questions about the i3 grant or the pending application process, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us listed below. Our goal is to ensure that we maximize this opportunity for students and their families in the city – every year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Barbic'.

Chris Barbic  
Superintendent  
Achievement School District

**People to Contact with any Investing in Innovation questions:**

Laura Encalade, [laura.encalade@tn.gov](mailto:laura.encalade@tn.gov) should be contacted with any questions regarding the application process for this “2012/13 Fall Round” and/or regarding any general i3 application and award questions

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